GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1889
ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012
OLD MEDICINES FROM ESI HOSPITALS
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of doctors, nurses and other paramedical staff including shortage of medicines in the Employees State Insurance (ESI) hospitals in the country including ESI hospitals in Kerala;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether some of the ESI hospitals particularly in Kerala have distributed medicines after the expiry date; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against such hospitals/dispensaries?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a): There are vacancies of doctors/nurses and para medical staff in Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Hospitals and dispensaries across the country including in the State of Kerala. Further, there are reports of shortage of medicines in ESI Hospitals.

(b): Vacancies in State ESI Hospital are to be filled up by State Governments. ESI Corporation has taken following steps to encourage State Government to fill up the vacancies:-

(i) ESIC has increased the ceiling on reimbursement of expenditure on medical care from Rs. 1200/- to Rs. 1500/- per IP family unit per annum with effect from 1.4.2012.

(ii) ESI Corporation has also decided to reimburse the administrative expenditure incurred by the State Government towards Medical Scheme on actual basis subject to fulfillment of certain conditions.

(iii) To overcome shortage of specialists/super specialists in State ESI Hospitals, ESIC is appointing part time specialists/super specialists directly, till the State Government makes regular appointments

To ensure regular supply of medicines, ESI Corporation has formulated rate contract for Allopathic and Ayurvedic drugs and this rate contract has been sent to all State/UT Governments for procurement of medicines.

(c): No reports has been received by the ESIC regarding distribution of expiry date medicines from ESI hospitals located in Kerala.

(d): Does not arise in view of reply to part (c).